

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 13, 2007. Claims 1-10, 12, 22-29 and 33-49 are pending in the application. By the present amendment, the Applicants have amended 22, 33 and 34 and cancelled claims 13-21 and 30-32, without prejudice, from further consideration in this application. The Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications. In addition, claim 49 has been added. No new matter has been added by the present amendment. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections in view of the amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, claims 13-16, 21-27, 30 and 33-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Pomerene et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,679,141) (hereinafter Pomerene). As stated above, claims 13-16, 21 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 13-16, 21 and 30 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to claims 31 and 32, but has stated that claims 31 and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (Section 8, Office Action dated June 13, 2007). The features of claim 31, its base claim and all intervening claims are included in amended claim 22. Thus, claim 22 is believed to be in condition for

allowance. In addition, claims 23-27 and 33-35 are believed to be in condition for allowance due at least to their dependencies from claim 22. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, claims 17-20 and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pomerene in view of Zuraski (U.S. Patent No. 7,024,545) (hereinafter “Zuraski”). As stated above, claims 17-20 have been canceled without prejudice. In addition, claims 28 and 29 are believed to be in condition for allowance due at least to their dependencies from claim 22. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

As discussed above, the Examiner has objected to claims 31 and 32, but has stated that claims 31 and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (Section 8, Office Action dated June 13, 2007). Claims 31 and 32 have been canceled without prejudice. However, the features of claim 31, its base claim and all intervening claims are included in amended claim 22. Moreover, claim 32 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 49 including all of the limitations of its base claim and all intervening claims. Thus, reconsideration of the objections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims set forth in the Office Action of June 13, 2007 be withdrawn, that pending claims 1-10, 12, 22-29 and 33-49 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

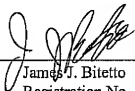
It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in

connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's IBM Deposit
Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9-13-07

By: _____



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